

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 993

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1371

RABAT PASS KEITH

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS/ SCUL

SUBJECT: DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAIR HAFEZ INVITED GNEHM TO MEETING YESTERDAY WITH SOLHI AL WADI DIRECTOR OF SYRIAN CONSERVATOIR OF MUSIC HAFEZ HAS ASKED HIM TO WORK WITH AL WADI IN DEVELOPING PROGRAM FOR FSU BAND. MUCH OF CONVERSATION YESTERDAY COVERED AREAS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED BUT IT DID LAY FOUNDATION FOR FIRING UP PROGRAM FOR BAND.

2. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WE ENVISIONED FIRSR MARCHING PERFORMANCE OF BAND TO BE AT 7:30 PM MONDAY AUGUST 12 IN CONJUNCTION WITH AMERICA DAY AT THE FAIR. MARCHING PERFORMANCE (LASTING APPROX 30 MINUTES) WILL TAKE PLACE EACH NIGHT FOR DURATION OF FAIR WITH LAST SHOW ON AUGUST 20. THUS TOTAL MARCHING PERFORMANCES IN STADIUM WILL BE NINE. WE BELIEVE PROGRAM FOR MARCHING HOS MUST BE PRIMARILY DECISION OF BAND DIRECTOR BUT BOTH HAFEZ AND WADI AGREED WE SHOULD BEGIN WITH TWO NATIONAL ANTHEMS AND FOLLOWS TRHOUGH WITH SAME TUPE PROGRAMS NORMALLY PRVIDED AT HALFTIME SHOW. BOTH SALSO AWARE WE HAVE PROVIDED SOME WORDS IN ARABIC SCRIPT FOR MARCHING PERFORMANCES AND HOPE THERE WILL BE WAY TO INCLUDE SOME ARABIC IN PROGRAM.

3. CONCERTS WIL BE HELD EACH EVEING AT 9:30 OR 1000 IN
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THE GARDENS OF THE AZEM PALACE FIRST CONCERT WILL BE

TUESDAY AUGUST 13. OR THINKING HERE IS TO VARY THE CONCERTS OVER EIGHT DAY PERIOD TWO PERFORMANCES FOR JAZZ THREE FOR WIND ASSEMBLE AND PRHAPS THREE OF ENTIRE BAND IN CONCERT. BY VARYING TYPE CONCERT WE WILL APPEAL TO SEVERAL SEGMENTS OF POPULATION. THE NUMBERS ARE ARTITARY AT THIS POINT IN TIME. WE VERY MUCH NEED TO KNOW BAND DIRECTORS THINKING ON THESE CONCERT PERFORMANCES. FOR EXAMPLE AND FOR HIS GUIDANCE CONCERT WITH LIGHT CLASSICAL GERSHWIN SHOW MUSIC ETA WILL APPEAL TO BROADEST GROUP, WHILE JAZZ CONCERT AND ONE WITH POPULAR MUSIC WILL APPEAL TO YOUNG. IDEALLY LARGEST NUMBER OR CONCERTS SHOULD HAVE BROAD APPEAL WHILE VARY PROGRAMS ON SEVERAL OTHER EVENINGS FOR DIFFERENT AUDIENCE IN ADDITION HAFEZ HAS SUGGESTED BAND TRY TO HOLD AN ADDITIONAL ONE OR TWO (DATES TO BE ARRANGED) MATINEE PERFORMANCES IN LOCAL THEATRE. THESE SHOWS WOULD BE TAILORED SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUNG CROWD FEATURING THE MOD SOUND AND MIGHT BEST BE IN FORM OF VARIETY SHOW WITH SOLOS GROUPS COMBOS ETC PERFORMING IN SEQUENCE DOES DIRECTOR BELIEVE THIS POSSIBLE

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) NEED TO KNOW TYPE OF MUSIC DIRECTOR BELIEVES WOULD BE BEST USE OF BANDS TALENTS FOR EIGHT EVENING CONCERTS. (B) WOULD DIRECTOR FURNISH BY DEPARTMENT CABLE EXAMPLE OF REPETOIRE FOR EACH TYPE PROGRMOR LAT LEAST TITLES WITH COMPOSERS WHICH BAND CURRENTLY PLANNING TO PLAY. THIS LAST REQUEST WAS MADE ESPECIALLY BY HAFEZ WHO EARNESTLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE EXACTLY WHAT TYPE CONCERTS AN AMERICAN BAND INTENDS PUT ON.
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